

Meeting of the Children's Cabinet

Monday, December 2, 2019

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

West Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building

1111 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: First Lady Pamela Northam, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Secretary Atif Qarni, Secretary Bettina Ring

Members Absent: Secretary Brian Moran, Secretary Daniel Carey

I. Welcome

First Lady of Virginia Pamela Northam welcomed members and attendees.

II. Presentation on the Report from the Taskforce on School-Based Health Centers

Deputy Secretary Holly Coy presented the Taskforce on School-Based Health Centers' report that was completed pursuant to legislation from the 2019 General Assembly. She highlighted that was discussed and assessed by the Taskforce and included details about what was intentionally not in the scope of the Taskforce's work. She then provided an overview of the role of school-based health centers, the services they provide, how they operate, and the current landscape of school-based health centers in Virginia (particularly in Petersburg and Shenandoah).

Deputy Secretary Coy discussed the challenges that face Virginia and school-based health centers as well as the administrative, legislative, and budgetary recommendations that could be employed to address these challenges in the short- and long-term. She emphasized that the Taskforce believed local communities know best what the needs of the communities are and what services are needed for their students. This concept drove the Taskforce's belief that SBHCs should be locally driven, but that the state can play a critical role in helping to remove barriers.

Deputy Secretary Coy discussed three buckets of recommendations that the Taskforce developed, specifically best practices, financing and billing, and state support. Deputy Secretary Coy noted that the topic of billing is one that should be discussed and researched further. She noted that startup costs are what are often times prohibitive but

that once an SBHC is up and running, they are generally stable and consistent. These startup costs are often due to capital, physical infrastructure, and personnel.

III. Update on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

Chief School Readiness Officer Jenna Conway discussed the needs assessment that Early Impact Virginia is conducting to identify existing capacity and needs at the community level. This needs assessment will be focused on both quality and access, and she said that they will be able to provide a presentation on their findings.

Chief Conway discussed the Community Model Approach that Virginia has been focusing on as a part of the PDG B-5 efforts. Specifically, she noted that Virginia is seeking to establish and/or strengthen local early childhood networks that include every locality in the Commonwealth within three years. This focus has come out of conversations with multiple workgroups and stakeholders, all of whom highlighted the need to deepen family and community engagement. She stated that they are working to find out what they want to be consistent across all communities and what Virginia can do to sustain best practices and systematically—over 3 years—reach every part of the state.

Chief Conway discussed Virginia's application for the PDG B-5 renewal opportunity. The Commonwealth applied for \$37.5 million in funding over three years and expects to hear back by the end of this year.

Chief Conway reviewed Executive Directive #4 and the recommendations that the Executive Leadership Team produced. She emphasized the need to preserve access for vulnerable families with infant and toddlers.

Lastly, Chief Conway provided a look at next steps in the early childhood development and school readiness space. This included recommendations from the Executive Leadership Team regarding legislation and budget priorities for the Administration to consider.

IV. Update on Nutrition and Food Security

Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz provided an update on Virginia's summer feeding programs as well as progress regarding the Hunger Vital Signs. She discussed how school summer feeding models have developed and changed, as well as the importance of strong community partners to go into communities and strengthening outreach.

Assistant Secretary Hertz invited Latoya Brown of the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank. Mrs. Brown provided an in depth look at the successes that Fredericksburg has

accomplished through their Kids on the Go Summer Feeding Program. She discussed what they were able to do to achieve increases in meals served and outreach. Mrs. Brown discussed how the increase in TANF funds helped them achieve an additional growth in numbers in the summer of 2019 by being able to add meals for parents in addition to their kids. This addition to the program increased participation rates dramatically.

V. Update on Trauma Informed Care

Chidi Uche discussed the goals and focuses of the Trauma Informed Leadership Team, which is comprised of the state agency members of working groups focused on trauma-informed care. She provided insights into the statewide resilience scorecard that the Trauma Informed Leadership Team is developing. Ms. Uche discussed the measures that were being incorporated to understand the prevalence of trauma, assessing systems of care (both in terms of the Commonwealth's workforce and training resources), and resiliency outcomes. The resiliency outcomes of focus fell into three key areas: 1) educational outcomes, 2) health and wellbeing outcomes, and 3) family resilience outcomes. This includes both child and adult indicators, which underlines how this is a two-generation approach to addressing statewide resiliency. She noted that they are still determining where the scorecard will be housed, and that TILT is assessing this and will determine what will be most effective and fitting.

VI. Update on Maternal Health

Deputy Secretary Gena Berger provided updates on the maternal health listening sessions, their findings, and next steps. They have completed the listening sessions and have been talking to other states. She provided information on the themes that were heard across the state and in specific regions. She noted the regional differences that were heard across the state, especially in terms of how barriers differ in different regions (ex: the transportation barriers in Northern Virginia look different than the transportation barriers in Hampton Roads). Deputy Secretary Berger highlighted a December 9 Strategy Session that will focus on discussing and finding solutions in the spaces of insurance coverage, health care environment, criminal justice and child welfare response, community-based services, and contraception. The Spring Strategy Session will focus on region-specific solutions.

VII. Public Comment

Allison Lawrence, *Family Children's Trust Fund (FACT)*: Provided an overview of the Family Children's Trust Fund including funding information sharing, data portal, and coordination of projects and initiatives as well as working with SCAN and Voices to develop a statewide movement to use data science to drive a movement. She noted their efforts to test trauma-informed care and resiliency approaches. She highlighted that

networks are grounded in building resilient communities and also in the diverse community needs. Ms. Lawrence highlighted Fact's request for funding from legislators.

Emily Griffey, *Voices for Virginia's Children*: Offered thanks to the Children's Cabinet for having the venue and work groups to move issues forward. She said that Voices is looking forward to supporting Children's Cabinet initiatives and promoted FACT's funding request. Ms. Griffey discussed the need to support families and children legislatively and budgetarily in the General Assembly Session.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned